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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



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Plane crashes into New York skyscraper

A small airplane crashed into a high-rise apartment building in New York yesterday.

Two people died in the crash, including Yankees baseball pitcher, Cory Lidle. A law enforcement official in Washington said the player was an avid pilot. Christine Monaco, a New York spokeswoman for the FBI, said there was no indication of terrorism.

Photo by Dax Gardner

International stars to grace city's biggest marathon

By Huang Daohen

More than 25,000 runners are expected to flock to Tiananmen Square this Sunday for the start of the 10th Asian Marathon Championships.

Organizers are predicting that around one million people will line the streets to cheer on the runners, with millions more watching the event on TV.

The marathon will start at 8am in Tiananmen Square and loop anti-clockwise around the Third Ring Road to the Olympic Center, passing through Xicheng, Haidian and Chaoyang districts.

Among the 25,000 runners will be top athletes and record holders from around the world, including stars Raymond Kipkoech and Pamela Chepchumba from Kenya.

The event was first held in 1981 and accredited by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) in 2004. Since then it has grown into one of the most popular events on the international marathon circuit.

There are four events this year: a mini marathon, an 8km run, a half marathon, and a full marathon at a distance of around 42km.

According to Beijing police, around 12 road sections will be closed off during the races, including the road to the east of the square, Nanchizi Nankou, Xuezhi Bridge and Beichen East Road in the north of the city.

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Highlights of the Music Festival

By Han Manman

Now in its ninth year, the Beijing Music Festival brings together hundreds of musicians from around the globe for richly diverse programs. The festival celebrates various themes this year: 2006 is not only the 'Year of Russia' and the 'Year of Italy' in China, but also the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth and the

Shostakovich's gem

By Han Manman

Born in St Petersburg in September 1906, this September marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dmitri Shostakovich, who is best known worldwide for his Seventh and Eighth Symphonies, both written during the misery of World War II and both of which put the listener through an emotional wringer. To cele-

brate his anniversary, many of his string quartets, concertos, instrumental and vocal works will be performed at the festival grand opening concert and the celebratory 100th anniversary concert.

The grand-opening concert will include a performance of Shostakovich's Festive Overture, Op.96 by Mariinsky Orchestra conducted by Valery Gergiev. The

celebration anniversary concert will include Shostakovich Songs Recital including four romances to Alexandre Pushkin's poetry; vocal cycle to the poetry of Michail Lemontov; cycle of Spanish songs to the poems of Japanese poets; vocal cycle to the poems of Marina Tsvetaeva; vocal cycle to the poems of English poets Ekaterina Semenchuk; mezzo soprano

100th anniversary of Shostakovich's.

The highlights of the festival include the well-known BBC Symphony Orchestra, which will be the first time for the orchestra to come to China, the conductor is Riccardo Muti, who will perform with the China Philharmonic Orchestra. The other highlights of the festival are the Italian pianist Maurizio Pollini, who will give his first piano recital in Beijing. There will also be a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Shostakovich with a special song recital.

Daniil Shtoda; tenor Metodie Buzhor and bass baritone Larissa Gergieva, piano.

Beijing Music Festival Grand Opening:

Where: Poly Theatre
When: 7:30pm, October 2
Shostakovich Songs Recital:
Where: Beijing Concert Hall
When: 7:30pm, October 10



Photos provided by Beijing Music Festival Committee

The BBC Symphony Orchestra

By Han Manman

The BBC Symphony Orchestra is one of Britain's leading orchestras. To celebrate its 75th anniversary this season, the orchestra will give a two-day performance at the Forbidden City Concert Hall on October 24 and 25.

The first concert will be a Czech music show with soprano Elena Semenova and Jiri Belohlavek as conductor. The pro-

gram includes Antonin Dvorak: Scherzo Capriccioso, Op.66; Josef Myslivecek: Concertante aria in E flat for Soprano and Horn; Bedrich Smetana: *The Bartered Bride*—Och, jaký zál!

The second concert follows the BBC Symphony Orchestra's traditional performance style with pieces like Peter Maxwell Davies: *An Orkney Wedding with Sunrise*; Igor Stravinsky: *Petrushka*; Edward Elgar: *Cello*

Concerto in E minor, op. 85; Henry Wood: *Fantasia on British Sea Songs*; Edward Elgar: *Pomp & Circumstance March No. 1 in D major*, Op.39 with Chinese cello Jian Wang and conductor Jiri Belohlavek.

Adrian Boult founded the BBC Symphony Orchestra in 1930, based on the former BBC Studio Symphony Orchestra. The BBC SO has a strong commitment to 20th-century

and contemporary music, having premiered over 1,000 works by composers including Britten, Hindemith, Holst, Stravinsky, Vaughan Williams and Shostakovich. More recently, it has given world premieres of BBC commissions by such leading composers as Sally Beamish, Elliott Carter, Magnus Lindberg, James MacMillan.

All concerts are broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and a number

are televised, giving the BBC Symphony Orchestra the highest broadcast profile of any UK orchestra.

In his later years, legendary Italian maestro Arturo Toscanini said that the BBC Symphony Orchestra was the best in the world.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall
When: 7:30pm, October 24, and 7:30pm, October 25

Muti and the China Philharmonic Orchestra

By Han Manman

Riccardo Muti, a great interpreter of Verdi and Mozart, and also noted for his operatic performances of Pergolesi, Gluck, Bellini, Rossini, Puccini and Wagner, will perform in Beijing on October 20 at the Forbidden City Concert Hall, as part of Year of Italy celebrations.

Riccardo Muti and the China Philharmonic Orchestra Concert will perform the Gioachino Antonio

Rossini: *William Tell Overture*; Ferruccio Busoni: *Turandot Suite*, Op.41 and Peter Tchaikovsky: *Symphony No. 5 in E minor*, Op.64.

A conductor of stellar credentials, Riccardo Muti traces his musical roots to his physician-father's encouragement and lessons in piano and voice. He recalls that at the age of seven, "Violin in hand, in short pants, white socks, the shoes from my First Commu-

nion, and a little white shirt with lace collar," he gave his first performance before a large choir of seminarians at the Molfetta Seminary, where, as a little boy, he accompanied his father on medical rounds. Among his later teachers he counts the renowned film composer Nino Rota and conductor Franco Ferrara.

His professional associations have included the famed Maggio Musicale of Florence, annual

appearances at the Salzburg Festival, the Berlin and London Philharmonic, his illustrious music directorship of the Philadelphia Orchestra from 1980 to 1992, and until recently, artistic leadership of La Scala. Starting this season and through 2008/2009 he will conduct four weeks of concerts at the Philharmonic.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall
When: 7:30pm, October 20

Butterfly Lovers concert with Augustin Dumay

By Han Manman

A concert featuring China's centuries-old folklore story, *The Butterfly Lovers*, will be held in Beijing on October 22 at the City Concert Hall. Unlike any of the previous versions of *The Butterfly Lovers*, it will be performed by the China Philharmonic Orchestra Concert alongside one of the world's best violinists, Augustin Dumay.

The *Butterfly Lovers* is one

of the most popular love stories in China. It tells the legend of two fourth century Chinese lovers who couldn't get married in their lifetime because of their different family statuses but who turned into butterflies after their deaths. The story has been called China's *Romeo and Juliet*.

The violinist Augustin Dumay has established himself as one of the major talents of his generation. He was recently described

by *The Strad* as the legitimate heir of the Royal Belgian line of Ysaye, Dubois and Grumiaux, of whom he was a disciple.

Augustin Dumay has become a regular guest of the world's leading orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, New Japan Philharmonic, Suisse Romande, Royal Concertgebouw, Orchestre National de France, Montreal Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Royal

Stockholm Philharmonic. He has played with some of the most prestigious conductors of our time: Sir Colin Davis, Seiji Ozawa, Charles Dutoit, Kurt Sanderling, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Emmanuel Krivine, Frans Bruggen, Marc Minkowski and Kurt Masur among many others.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall
When: 7:30pm, October 22



Mozart year

On the 250th anniversary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's birth (1756 – 1791), there will be nine performances of his works at the Ninth Beijing Music Festival, including many of his greatest masterpieces, symphonies, operas and piano concertos.

Free performance to show Mozart's life

By Chen Shasha

During the Ninth Beijing Music Festival, there will be a free performance called Mozart's Magnificent Voyage, given by National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain, which was established in 1978. The group draws together each year almost 500 talented musicians, divided into the five age banded orchestras, from all over the UK.

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of Mozart, the show will introduce Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's life and music – a story that weaves together selections from Mozart's works and operas, and will take the audience on a journey through his childhood, family life and genius as a composer.

The Dream Children are taken from Mozart's most famous opera. Hoping to change their fate, they enlist the help of the composer's young son Karl and embark on an incredible journey that takes them back in time to Mozart's childhood and far into the future. Along the way, Karl learns much about his father and comes to understand his legacy of timeless music...

The concert features more than 24 excerpts of Mozart's most important and engaging works including Symphony No.1, Clarinet Quintet, Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, plus excerpts from Mozart's most famous operas including *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni* and *The Magic Flute*.

Where: Minzu Palace Theater, east of Minzu Hotel

When: 1pm and 3pm, October 22



Pianists to play Mozart's concertos

By Chen Shasha

For many classical music fans, Mozart's concertos are number one, not even Hayden can match their brilliance.

In the coming festival, three concertos will be played in the second half of the performance. They are *La Clemenza di Tito Overture*, K.621, *Piano Concerto No.7 in F Major for 3 Pianos* K.242, and one of his best *Piano Concerto – No.23 in A Major*, K.488.

K488 was composed in March 1786, at a time when Mozart was working on one of the most generous and humanly perceptive of all operatic masterpieces – *The Marriage of Figaro*. It was widely known for its contrasting and complex emotions: the first movement is amiable and gentle, a mood reinforced by a scoring which omits trumpets and drums and includes clarinets but not oboes. Then, the calm piece begins: sun frequently shines, but in which the occasional threat of clouds prevents things from spilling into exuberance.

At the coming music festival, audiences will hear piano concerts by Jacques Taddei from France, Rossina Grieco from the USA and Xu Zhong from China.

Jacques Taddei is one of the rare musicians of his generation who is able to perform both organ and piano of JS Bach, Franz Liszt and Csar Franck's programs. Rossina Grieco, an 11-year-old who started to play the piano at the age of four has already won a number of international competitions. Xu Zhong, a talented Chinese pianist won first prize at the 34th Maria Canals International Piano Competition in Barcelona, Spain in 1988, and later won third prize at the First Hamamatsu International Piano Competition in Japan. He has been invited as professor of France Fontaine Bleau School of Fine Arts & Music. In the concert, he will lead the China Philharmonic Orchestra and act as conductor.

Where: Poly Theatre

When: 7:30pm, October 14



National Children's Orchestra performs Mozart.

80-year-old pianist to interpret Mozart

By Chen Shasha

Although nowadays Mozart is admired most notably as the supreme master of instrumental, sacred and opera music, his piano output still occupies a position in his compositional legacy. Of his more than 600 works, no fewer than 102, are devoted to piano. At the Ninth Beijing Music Festival, Paul Badura-Skoda, 80, will interpret his Mozart piano pieces.

Paul Badura-Skoda entered the Vienna Conservatory in 1945, and two years later won first prize in the Austrian Music Competition. He then became one of the most important pianists of our time, who has been heard in all the world's greatest concert halls and for years was the pianist who had the largest number of records available on the market. Badura-Skoda per-



Paul Badura-Skoda plays Mozart.

forms with equal authority on both period and modern instruments, with profound knowledge of instruments from Bach's and Mozart's time up to the present. His musical personality is characterized by complete immersion in music, a passionate search for the essential, and a sense of artistic responsibility.

In this concert, Badura-Skoda will play seven piano

Requiem to bring down the curtain

By Chen Shasha

Mozart's unfinished *Requiem* has long been shrouded in mystery.

It was said that Mozart undertook the commission for an Austrian nobleman in 1791, little knowing that he was to write a requiem for himself. In December 4, several singers sang through the *Requiem* with him, and at the point where they reached the incomplete *Lacrymosa*, Mozart was moved to tears. The talented musician perhaps had noticed the bitter irony that the first performance of his *Requiem* might be the occasion of his own death. His life being cut short like the *Requiem* itself. Although he did not complete the *Requiem* – in one of life's supreme ironies, it still couldn't decrease its glory.

Requiem is scored for soprano, alto, tenor, bass soloists and choir, and a small classical orchestra comprising two bassoon horns. This year, Chorus of Teatro La Fenice will cooperate with China Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Yu Long from China Philharmonic Orchestra. As a 200-year-old choir, Chorus of Teatro La Fenice best supported Europe's opera houses in history, which was one of the most tradition-rich of the Teatro La Fenice in Venice. While The China Philharmonic Orchestra, which founded on May 25, 2000, is a national level orchestra.

Where: Wangfujing Church

When: 7:30pm, October 28

Photo provided by Beijing Music Festival Committee

compositions. All the works are important.

The *Sonata in C minor*, K.457 was completed in Vienna in October 1784. Unlike the purity of his former works, the passion that unfurls in K457 is solemn, dark, and rationally elaborated, relating in more than a few respects to Beethoven's *Pathétique Sonata* in the same key. While K540, completed on March 19, 1788, reflects facets of expression and details of technique found in works as diverse as variations, rondos, fantasias and sonatas. In that year, Mozart's life was starting to come apart – his money, health, family situation and professional status were all on the decline. His fourth child and only daughter, Theresa, age six months, died.

Where: Poly Theatre

When: 7:30pm, October 15

By Han Manman

Four operas will be put on at the festival, Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District* and *The Nose*, both of which will be performed for the first time in China. The other two are Mozart's *Cosi Fan Tutte* and Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata*.

Cosi Fan Tutte-all women are like that

By Han Manman

Celebrations of the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth continue with a production of the composer's final comic opera. First produced over 200 years ago, just one year before his death, *Cosi Fan Tutte* or 'All Women are Like That' contains some of Mozart's most beautiful and moving music.

The opera is the 'smallest' of the Mozart Operas. Essentially a Chamber-Opera for six voices, its glory resides in the unearthly beauty of Mozart's writing for their various combinations. The plot is famously slight (or lame and immoral as Beethoven once said). Two young couples, a scheming maid, a cynical philosopher and a light-hearted wager set the scene for a wickedly ironic comedy exploring the games that lovers play. Indeed, the subject of attraction between women and men is one, which deserves, and was granted, some of the most captivating music ever composed. But there is something deeper here: a cynical sadness framing the broad comedy. The libretto's cynicism is also why the priggish 19th Century largely



ignored this Opera.

1790 was a hard year for Mozart. Poverty, questions about his wife's fidelity and commercial failure all hounded him. Naturally, that wonderfully elusive emotional ambiguity that informs all of Mozart's greatest music is fully in evidence in this score.

Piccolo Teatro di Milano (Little theatre of Milan) was founded in 1947 by Paolo Grassi

and Giorgio Strehler, maestro of Italian theater and one of the best theatrical directors in the world. It was the first example of a public and permanent theatre company in Italy and it was from its stage that began the reform of Italian modern theatre. After Fascism and the Second World War, Italian theatre was depressed and dusty: Grassi and Strehler also opened to Italy the

concept of modern directing and were able to gain in a few decades the cultural delay that had separated Italian theatre from the most advanced European performing experiences. In 1991 Piccolo Teatro became Teatro d'Europa, the official representative of Italian theater all over the world.

Where: Poly Theatre
When: 7:30pm, October 8-9

The Nose

By Han Manman

Based on the short story *The Nose* by Nikolai Gogol, this is a satirical opera in three acts performed by Shanghai Opera House on October 13 at Poly theatre.

Shostakovich is reported to have said "You can read *The Nose* as a joke, but you can't stage it as one." The plot is based on one of the most famous stories in Russian literature. A pompous government official, Kovalyov, wakes up one day to find that his nose has taken on a life of its own and gone for a walk around the city of St.Petersburg. In a sequence of scenes that follow one another with cinematic swiftness, audiences could follow Kovalyov's increasingly ridiculous attempts to chase after his nose, recapture it and stick it back on his face. On the way it encounters singing policemen, a drunken barber, an early 19th century newspaper office, a cathedral choir and the Persian Ambassador. The result, in Shostakovich's ruthlessly irreverent hands, is like an operatic version of Charlie Chaplin or Monty Python.

The music is filled with sudden surges and metric surprises, and though its thrust is more unbuttoned and violent than Stravinsky's, the light, thin textures of solo instruments bear the mark of 'L'Histoire du Soldat,' written 10 years earlier. Shostakovich, however, makes his points with extremes of high and low. Piccolos from the pit and tenors on stage shriek delightfully; the contrabassoon and bass trombone rumble, and the composer has a wonderful way of buoying crowd scenes with sotto voce rustlings from the orchestra as a whole. Shostakovich's chattering street scenes and his send-ups of the doleful Russian choral style are beautifully done.

Where: Poly Theatre
When: 7:30pm, October 13

Photos provided by
Beijing Music Festival Committee

Legendary Venetian Teatro La Fenice returns

**By Han Manman**

Verdi's opera *La Traviata* has garnered great success since it premiered at Teatro La Fenice in Venice in 1853. A century and a half later, the same opera house will come to Beijing to show a modern version for the audiences at the closing ceremony of the festival on October 29.

Based on Alexandre Dumas' play *La Dame aux Camélias*, Verdi's *La Traviata* is a quintessential romantic attack on conventional bourgeois morality in Europe in the 19th Century.

It argues that a good heart is more important than propriety, that the social distinction that splits the 'beau monde' (high society) from the 'demimonde' (the world of illicit sex) are cruel and hypocritical, and that true love must triumph over all.

It is 'a subject of the times,' Verdi wrote to his friend Cesare de Sanctis in 1853. Verdi, not one to shy away from a strong, if controversial, plot continues, "Others would not have done it because of the conventions, the epoch and for a thousand other stupid scruples."

'*La Dame aux Camélias*' gave the composer the ideal vehicle to ridicule the double standard set up by those in higher echelons of society who would have affairs behind closed doors but at the same time chastise their victims.

That's the very reason why *La Traviata* has had such great impact since it was born.

However, 153 years on, the world has changed a great deal. Will audiences still be drawn to a story similar to *La Traviata*?

When the legendary Venetian Teatro La Fenice, one of Italy's oldest opera houses that had been completely destroyed by fire in 1996, rose like a phoenix from the ashes, its rebirth was celebrated with Verdi's *La Traviata*, an opera that had seen its premiere more than 150 years earlier in the same theatre. Led by star conductor Bruno Aprea, the opera brought an exact replica of the March 1853 version to the stage, giving audiences the opportunity to experience the opera as the world first heard it at its premiere in Venice. The original score had been found in the archives of La Fenice, so that *La Traviata* could relive its premiere without any revisions. The great Violetta-Germont duet, the second act finale and the opera's last two numbers resounded through the theatre in just the way that Verdi initially intended.

Where: Poly Theatre
When: 7:30pm, October 28

Mezzanine Lounge
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More than 20 different desserts, hors d'oeuvres, and finger foods. Four flavors of Häagen Dazs ice cream, more than seven different cheesecakes, à la minute Belgian Waffles and French Soufflés – the Mezzanine Lounge's elegant Afternoon Tea Buffet is sure to delight, impress, and satisfy. Served from 15:00 to 18:00 daily, for just RMB115 per person.

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The 63rd Venice Film Festival has just ended, and in China, the 43rd Golden Horse Awards are just beginning. October is a month when all the best movies come out. With these reviews and previews, what are you waiting for? Pick some, prepare your money, and buy tickets.



By Cao Yu

The story is set in the 10th century in China. Adapted from Chinese classic play *Lei Yu* by Cao Yu, the story focuses on the relationships between different people. After the Emperor (Chow Yun-Fat) finds out his Empress (Gong Li) has had a love affair with the Crown Prince (Liu Ye), he wants to kill her. Meanwhile, the Prince has a secret love with a maid (Li Man) in the palace, who turns out to be his sister (Gross). The Third Prince kills the Crown Prince because he wants to inherit the royal seat. However, in order to save his mother, the Second Prince (Jay Chow) stands up to fight against the Emperor.

Director: Zhang Yimou

Cast: Yun-Fat Chow, Gong Li, Jay Chow, Liu Ye, Chen Jin, Li Man, Qin Junjie

Release date: December 21, 2006

The curse of colors

By Cao Yu

The City of Golden Armor premiered on September 20 to 27 in the New Oriental Plaza Cinema. I was expecting the worst from this Zhang Yimou-directed and Gong Li-starred movie. But much to my surprise, the 180 yuan ticket was a bargain. Zhang didn't disappoint me this time.

Compared with *The House of Flying Danggers* and *Hero*, Zhang's film is outstanding as a story. Zhang's understanding of every actor and actress makes the whole movie glide smoothly and naturally. He also successfully uses the typical Chinese symbols: the royal medical pool, chrysanthemum, Chinese wall-carvings, all push the plot forward. Dialogues in the movie are clear and powerful. Every scene creates a royal and noble feeling, replete with

intrigue in the corridors of power.

Zhang is experienced in using large amounts of colors. Unlike the colors in *Hero*, he doesn't use one simple tone in *Golden Armor*. What we see here is an understanding of combining Chinese culture, plots, and the skillful use of gold color. There are several English names for this film, one of which is *The Curse of Golden Flowers*. Zhang has rid himself of his previous curse of colors, showing great command of symbols in bright hues.

Anyway, Zhang succeeded this time, marking an end to Chinese *da pian* (big movies). I don't think there will be a second Zhang Yimou, and I don't believe there will be a *da pian* better than *Golden Armor* in the next five years.



That's why The Banquet's delicious

By Gan Tian

They get a bad rap for their dumb plots, but I like the big budget movies. This one's no better than *A World Without Thieves*, but it beats the pants off *Hero* and *The Promise*.

Of course there's the great director Feng Xiaogang, but there are more star names to stir the blood: Tan Dun, who composed music for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *Hero*, art director Tim Yip, who gives a beautiful series of actions in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, and dance choreographer Wang Yuanyuan, who worked on *Raise the Red Lantern*.

The composer Tan Dun says the music is very classic and aesthetic, becoming very modern and rock 'n' roll toward the end of the movie. With the scenes changing fast, the style of the music

varies all the time. Fight scenes are the most frequently changing elements in the story, and the background music changes sometimes to ballet, sometimes to opera and sometimes to Chinese opera. However, you will still feel that there is a thread running through the story in the music. That's where Tan's magic power lies. I have to mention the final song by Jane Zhang, runner-up in last year's Supergirls Talent Competition. In the song, Jane shows great potential in dealing with tragic music: powerful and bright outside, touching and feeling inside.

The plot is not carefully delivered, but a film is composed of so many elements: clothing, music, actors and actresses, acting skills, editing... and *The Banquet* succeeded in most of them.

The Banquet has been described as a loose adaptation of Hamlet; it is a tale of fate and revenge set in 10th century China. A new Emperor has usurped the throne through murder. Zhang Ziyi plays the widowed Empress Wan, who marries the new Emperor Li (Ge You) to protect herself, but also secretly plots his death with the help of the Crown Prince (Daniel Wu) and the Chief Minister (Ma Jingwu). Yet the Prince and Minister each have their own plans for the throne, and, of course, so does the Emperor. All these intrigues are brought to a climax when the Emperor calls for a lavish banquet, where the murderous plans are set in motion.

Director: Feng Xiaogang

Cast: Zhang Ziyi, Ge You, Zhou Xun, Daniel Wu, Huang Xiaoming

Release date: September 14, 2006

Shakespeare would faint if he watched it

By Cao Yu

"Highly anticipated" best described this film before its release. After? I'd prefer the word "Stupid".

I have to admit that I just snickered all the way through (everyone did!) in the cinema. Whenever Ge You appeared, I felt he was going to say something interesting. When he said, "Our big nation should be based on honesty", I laughed so hard that I nearly fell off my seat. (Ge's talent is never in doubt, but this film certainly could not give him a chance to shine.) Besides, the comical and unnatural language, combining modern language and ancient language (spoken and written), and interpreted by director Feng Xiaogang as "very traditional and poetic dialogue", totally drove me crazy.

Many scenes are unreasonable, ridiculous, even unnecessary. At

the end of the story, Emperor Li discovers his Empress wants to assassinate him, and he kills himself. I could never imagine an emperor behaving like this. A minister's daughter can suddenly appear at the royal banquet without any difficulty? Even with the prince wearing a mask? And, is it meaningful to provide a scene of the assassins killing themselves? Can you find any, any, any reason to tell me that Prince's Yue Ren Ge is necessary? I don't know, and I bet everyone in the cinema didn't have any idea.

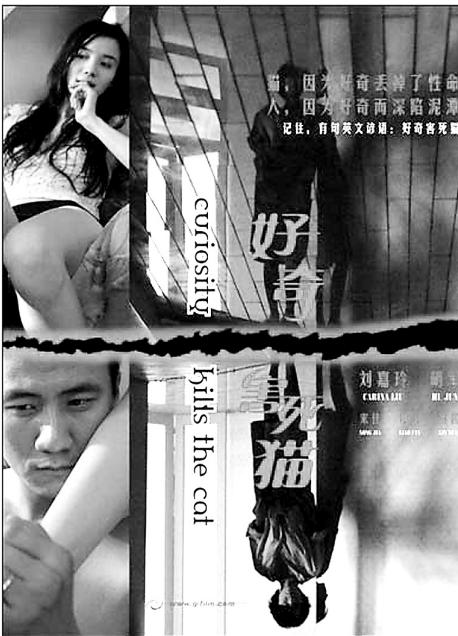
What's more, hearing *The Banquet* is to be nominated for the Best Foreign Language Film Award for the 2007 Oscars, I nearly fell down from my chairs: what? Is that a joke? Shakespeare would surely faint if he watched great Feng's female Hamlet.

By Hu Mingzhe

At the very beginning, he is a famous killer, a brilliant detective or some other kind of superhero. And she is definitely gorgeous no matter what job she engages in. They fall in love at first sight, and during the sweetness our superhero has to crash several BMWs or Ferraris to continue their romance. At the end of the movie, he does a real great job and takes her kiss or even body to celebrate. And as always, what he has done is merely destroy some evil organization like a government, or protect the United States.

Sound tediously familiar? Independent movies may be the best way to spend your precious pastime.

Recommended



Set in touch with your soul

By Demon Hu

Kindergarten

The film won the Best Innovation of Documentary Feature at the 10th Shanghai International Television Festival. The director tries to use this on-the-spot record to describe the relationship between kids and adults. To express this subject, he made a recording of three classes of a kindergarten where the children behaved under the care of the teachers and developed their nature. The pace of growing up is so calm and sweet, whereas the friction and trouble is also obviously displayed. The kids and the adults have their own views but it is the kids that always change to match the grown-ups. But the question is, have we seen the truth? In other words, haven't we lost something precious during childhood, which represents good and real happiness? As a bystander, the film-maker used his camera to tell us a familiar but strange story. Delightful and profound.

Ballad on the Plain

It is a movie about women, destiny and nostalgia. A melody has been crooned by Luo Xiaojia for many years. The girl was growing up in a needy village in the southeast of China, where most Chinese people of minority nationalities settle. When she was young, the girl learned the ballad from her mother, singing along as best she could. To support the poor family, Luo was sold to a young farmer as his wife and forced to live in Shandong province, thousands of miles away from her hometown. It is a sad story and recorded by the director in detail. The girl has an everyday routine: she goes in for farming, does her housework, serves her husband and in-laws. Nonetheless Luo has her own attitude towards life and destiny. She expresses her opinion while still living her life, sorrowfully but purely. After 10 years of struggle, the girl obtained the right to come back to her hometown. Four thousand miles was not a short distance but nothing could block her journey.

Where: Box Cafe, Building No. 5, Xiwangzhuang, Shuangqionglu Road, Haidian District
When: 7:30pm October 28, 31
Tel: 62791280

Curiosity Kills the Cat

(Haoqi Haisi Mao)

A typical westernized movie, but with strong Chinese city elements. The movie combines sex, violence, conspiracy, beauty...the strange thing is, it will still hit Chinese cinemas. This story takes place in a city by the Yangtze River where skyscrapers sit

around falling slums. In a luxurious apartment an enchanting story of modern China unfolds. As the Chinese economy blooms so does the gap between rich and poor. These events unite an unlikely cast of a lady of noble descent, her power-hungry husband, a manicure store-owner,

a security guard, and a country girl while a series of mysterious events haunt them. What happens in this luxurious apartment building? Are you curious? Well, curiosity kills the cat. International superstar Garina Liu, with Hu Jun, excel. A cat has nine lives, but only curiosity kills her.

Let's be that dying cat. With this film, it's worth it.

Director: Zhang Yibai

Cast: Garina Liu (Liu Jialing), Hu Jun, Yuan Lin

Language: Chinese (English subtitles)
Release date: October 12, 2006

Still Life



(Sanxia Haoren)

The big winner at the 63rd Venice Film Festival, this movie tells several common stories in Chinese villages in the age of great change. The coal worker Han Sanming comes from Fenyang to Fengjie to find

her husband who has been out for two years. They meet each other near the Yangtze River. Looking at each other, they decide to marry again. However, the nurse Shen Hong, coming from Taiyuan to Fengjie to find her husband, doesn't

have good luck. They meet each other near the Yangtze River but decide to divorce.

Director: Jia Zhangke

Cast: Zhao Tao, Han Sanming

Language: Chinese (English subtitles)

Yuan - Ming Yuan Imperial Garden

(Yuanmingyuan)

Call it a documentary rather than a commercial movie. But it is not boring. Watch Chinese glory in the ancient period and try to feel that noble, elegant, and luxurious heritage. The movie's advanced technology will bring you to dynasties gone by. The film is also a tip for the Oscars.

Director: Jin Tiemu

Language: Chinese (English subtitles)
Release date: October 10, 2006

(By Gan Tian)

Indie style, yours and mine

By Hu Mingzhe

Indie movies, or independent movies, seldom care about serious subjects. Without powerful financial support, the producers have to arrange the resources to make personal points. However, the movie's imperfection and naturalness provide its special charm. Love, hatred, friendship, social problems, misunderstanding, discrimination... indie movie directors focus on the personal. The characters act like real people,

which make indie movies more than mere fairy tales. People have to save their family instead of the nation; they need to protect their self-esteem instead of the Earth. But these movies are not all the same. The indie movie is an art form, like any other, and like art it should make you think.

Talking about Chinese indie movie history is not easy. Analogous to most countries, our directors share different backgrounds but it is the love of movies and life that

connects them. Since China practices tough censorship, lots of Chinese indie filmmakers prefer black and white footage to carry their story. Fortunately few of them display too desperate an attitude. In their movies the problems are discussed frankly and we can also make the effort to solve them. Maybe that is the reflection most indie film-makers recognize as the reality of today's China: it is a nation bothered by many tough troubles but is still moving on.



Who are the dancers today?

China-Europe performing arts event gets under way

By Chu Meng

Eight top international and Chinese theatre and dance companies will be putting on performances in Beijing from October 11 to 15, 2006.

They include Mind The Gap (UK), Alexandra Bachzetsis (Switzerland), Danish Dance Theater (Denmark), Virpi Pahkinen (Sweden), Tanzatelier Wien/Sebastian Prantl (Austria), Les Ballets C de la B/Christine De Smedt (Belgium), ZOO/Thomas Hauert (Swaziland) and finally Beijing Modern Dance Company (China).

Zhang Changcheng, artistic director of Beijing Modern Dancing Company and organizer of the event, said, "This meeting will include workshops, lectures and roundtable discussions. It will be the first event of this kind to be held in China. The idea came from our desire to unite Chinese and European performing arts professionals with the intention of creating more mutual understanding and artistic interaction."



Heroine by Kobalt Works Youth Modern Dancing Group



Sensual reflection on females

Heroine by Belgium Kobalt Works Youth Modern Dancing Group

By Chu Meng

In *Heroine* we see a beautiful, but anonymous body. With her back turned to us she doesn't have a face, even as her features slowly emerge from the darkness. Her physical freedom is in effect limited to a point in space that she never leaves.

She stands on, traveling through a jungle of resistances and constricting structures of time and space, striving to set herself free from her very own impeccable, but cold image, and to be alive.

Heroine is a sensual reflection on perception and appearance, meditation and interference, stillness and movement.

Artistic Director, Arco Renz from Belgium, teamed up with Taiwanese soloist Su Wen-Chi to create this piece around one of the fundamental differences between eastern and western cultures reflected in the per-

forming arts: the notion of vertical time and vertical space in the East as opposed to horizontal time and horizontal space in the West.

Our common concept of time is linear: for example, a succession of events in time is readable with the tool of an imagined timeline. *Heroine* develops a different concept of time evolving vertically. Time is not a linear succession of events, but one suspended event that lasts. Visually we can imagine this concept as time spiraling along its vertical axis.

After a career as an actor, Arco Renz established Kobalt Works, his Brussels based dance company, in 2000. Arco Renz's works are characterized by intense physicality and investigate the emotional potential of abstraction.

Where: Nine Theater, Chaoyang Cultural Center
When: 7:30 pm October 1;
7:30pm October 2
Tickets: 100yuan, 50 yuan for students



Parallelemande by ZOO Dancing Company

Improvisation at its best

Maria Vespers by Belgium Les Ballets C. de la B Dancing Company

By Chu Meng

It is sometimes said that baroque scores are full of holes. This may mean that it was also possible for the musicians of the day to improvise to their heart's content. In this prospect, *Maria Vespers*, performed by Les Ballets C. de la B is much more than a usual piece of dance. It is a fantastic example of improvisation.

One also sees in this dance the extreme forms of devotion in the short films Dr Arthur Van Gehuchten (1861-1914) made of his psychiatric patients. They show peculiar, apparently pointless and useless movements. It is these films, together with the music of Claudio Monteverdi and his contemporaries that form the starting point for the dancers in this piece.

In the world of contemporary dance, Les Ballets C. De La B., with its choreographer Alain Platel ranks

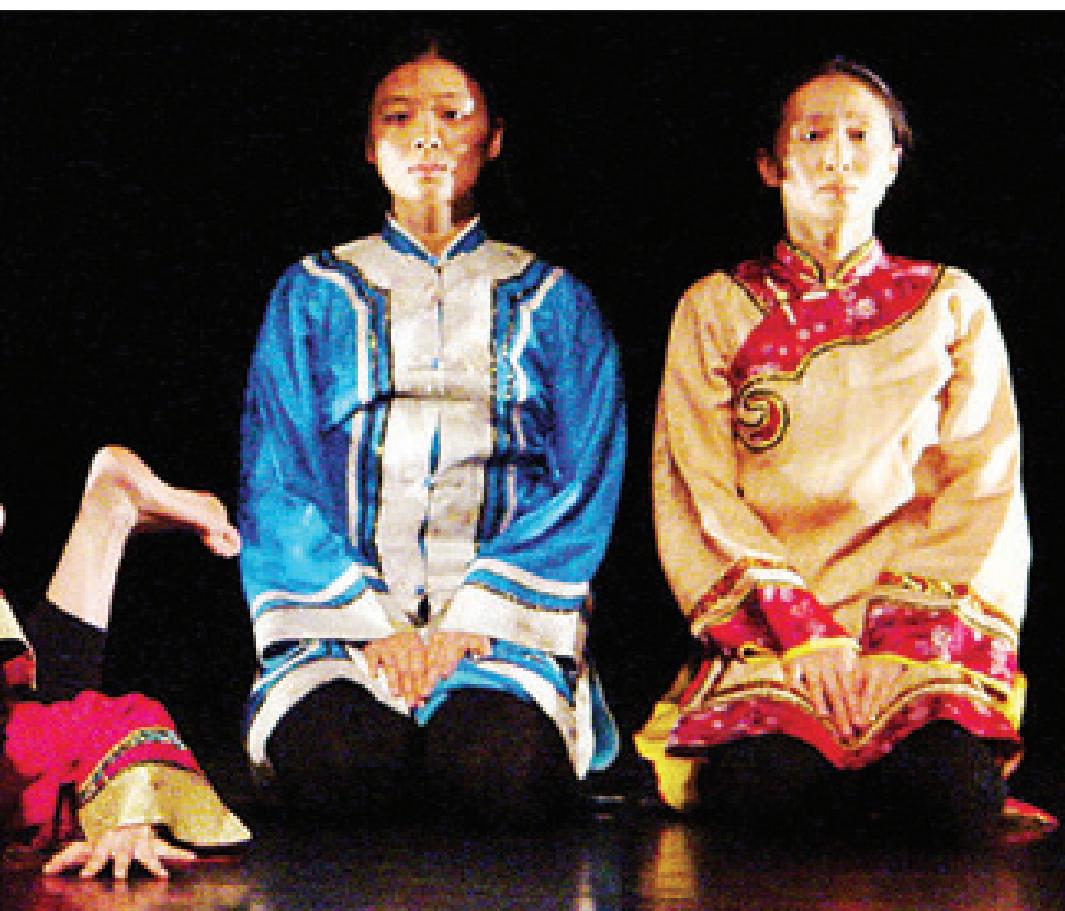
at the very top of the world. son of Islamic parents brought up in Europe who draws upon this cultures in his work.

For Platel and his colleagues, the name 'Les Ballets Contemporains de la Belgique' was a frivolous attempt to distance themselves from the linguistic conflict that plagued Belgium in the eighties. There were other reasons too. The appropriation of the title 'Le ballet' was a statement in an age when the popularity of contemporary dance had overshadowed the classical ballet.

Monteverdi's *Maria Vespers* is one of the first works in which the religion of the community is given a personal touch: the chorus uses the first person plural instead of the person singular.

Where: South Gate Space Factory
When: 7pm October 11
Tickets: 100 yuan, 50 yuan for students

top modern ay? emporary dancers together



Four Happiness by Beijing Modern Dancing Company



Maria Vespers by Les Ballets C. de la B Dancing Company

Four Happiness by Beijing Modern Dancing Company

photos provided by Zhang Jianping

Music for both sides of your brain

Parallelemande by Swiss ZOO Dancing Company

By Chu Meng

The Swiss ZOO Dance Company will perform *Parallelemande* for the first time on October 11 at the Kaai-theater in Brussels, Belgium. Three days later, the second show will be staged at Beijing's China Europe Performing Arts Meeting.

It is a piece created for two choreographers, Chrysa Parkinson and Thomas Hauert, performed in three parts, a solo by each performer in the first two parts and a duet in the third. "The basis for the piece is a composition by J.S. Bach for a solo instrument. I've superposed two recordings; one version performed on a violin and the other on a trumpet," said Hauert.

Hauert explained that the two interpretations are quite different in

terms of color, dynamics and tempo as the two musicians performed the piece as soloists and the two instruments offer certain specific qualities or impose specific limits. Hearing the two interpretations together is a very particular experience. "Our attention is being split in two sometimes to follow both instruments, or we are being tricked into hearing new melodies because our ears miss a turn and slide from one instrument to another without noticing," he said.

The dance is very closely linked to the music, proposing a visualization of the phenomenon experienced while listening. The movement is improvised on the music that has been thoroughly studied and incorporated by the dancers.

Where: Experimental Theater of Beijing Modern Dancing Company

When: 7:30pm October 14

Ticket: 60 yuan, 40 yuan for students

Trans-sexual dancer to interpret oriental culture

Beijing Vision by Beijing Modern Dance Company

By Chu Meng

The Beijing Modern Dance Company (BMDC) will perform *Beijing Vision*, a special program covering five short pieces, all of which were created by the famous dancer and choreographer Jin Xing, to close the China Europe Performing Arts Meeting on October 15.

Beijing Vision will include the award-winning piece *Red and Black*, created by Jin two years after she became the artistic director and choreographer of the BMDC in 1998.

It is a visually stunning movement piece with the performers wearing red and black and Chinese folk music in background. Chinese drums, fans and scarves are used as metaphors representing cultural characteristics.

Following that will be a work called *Flower*, inspired by the music

of Cui Jian, pioneer in the world of contemporary Chinese rock music. The performance is meant to express the conflicts of inner emotions with the outside world.

The next three pieces on the program are: *Four Happiness*, a work depicting the relationships between four women; *Quietude*, which is inspired by Zen Buddhism and *Jue Aware*.

The Beijing Modern Dance Company, founded in 1995, has been one of the driving forces behind the recent evolutions in the Chinese dance scene. The style of the company and the cutting edge choreographers they unite, cover boundaries between tradition and innovation.

Where: The Experimental Theater of Beijing Modern Dancing Company

When: 7:30pm October 15

Ticket: 100 yuan, 60 yuan for students

By Jackie Zhang

In the golden autumn season, watching dramas will be a nice choice for enjoying your holiday spare time. This month, dramas of different kinds will be put on stage for the

Beijing audience. The drama known as a Hollywood movie and Broadway production, *The Mutiny*, is strongly recommended. There are also lighter dramas for people to relax and escape work.

Broadway show comes back to Beijing

By Jackie Zhang

Only one major setting, all the performers are men, dialogues are the main form of expression – these features have made the drama *The Mutiny* famous since it was first staged in 1954 on Broadway in New York.

This month, the Beijing People's Art Theater will stage this unique drama for the second time at the Capital Theater.

The drama is based on the novel *The Caine Mutiny*, written by Herman Wouk in 1951. He conceived the idea for the novel while serving in the American Navy on the Pacific Ocean during the Second World War between 1940 and 1946. In 1947, the novel won him the Pulitzer Prize. In 1988, the Beijing People's Art Theater performed *The Mutiny* for the first time in China.

The story

In 1944, towards the end of the Second World War, a mutiny took place onboard a destroyer-mine-sweeper, the USS Caine in the South Pacific Ocean. The drama tells the story of those court marshaled for instigating the mutiny.



(*The Caine Mutiny* and the court martial is purely imaginary.)



Queeg was in full control of his faculties. Maryk's legal defender, another important character in the play, Lieutenant Barney Greenwald, doesn't support the mutiny, yet he still believes Maryk acted according to his best judgment. The unstable Queeg eventually breaks down completely while undergoing interrogation.

At the victory party that Keefer held for Maryk, Greenwald appears and declares that his

advocacy for Maryk isn't from his own will. He pointed out that the real criminal is Keefer. Greenwald smears butter on Keefer's face and then leaves to everyone's surprise.

Words from director

Ren Ming, from the Beijing People's Art Theater, is the director of *The Mutiny*. "The Mutiny" is a classic play in the history of drama," he said. "The whole play is centered on the court martial. All the characters are male soldiers. For most of the play, the actors speak with few actions. It is a typical drama that it shows us that the main element of any drama should be the dialogue. The play is also a nice opportunity for testing the actors' performing skills."

Ren Ming said that *The Mutiny*'s first performance in China in 1988 was a rave success. "However conditions are a little different now," he said. "Now people have more knowledge and understanding of law, which will help them to understand more about the drama. Most of the audience will be thinking about the play and characters as the story develops. People with more life experience may be able to

relate better to the play."

Words from the two main actors

Feng Yuanzheng and Wu Gang play the lead roles of Captain Queeg and Greenwald respectively.

"I was very excited when I was picked to play Barney Greenwald," said Wu. "When *The Mutiny* was staged in 1988, I was in the audience, shocked by the story and the fantastic performance given by the actors."

Playing Greenwald, Wu has the most lines in the play. "I had to spend a long time memorizing those lines," he said. "Actually, the psychology of Greenwald is ambivalent. He knows that the person who should be punished is Keefer but he has to accuse Captain Queeg because he is a soldier and must carry out tasks given by those higher-up the chain of command."

Feng Yuanzheng agrees that the biggest feature of the play is the dialogue. "I have an eight-minute-long monolog in the play," he said. "In the second act, I have to act out how Queeg gradually turns from being normal to being nervous simply through the words I speak."

East and West Houses – the reality of the Beijing dream

By Jackie Zhang

East and West Houses is the play currently being staged at the Mini Theater of Beijing People's Art Theater. With a Beijing resident landlord and a group of young people coming from different parts of China to follow their dreams, the play is like a mirror reflecting today's society in Beijing.

The middle-aged landlord, Qiangge (Brother Qiang) is a Beijing resident and rents his houses to young people who travel to the city from other parts of China. He is warm-hearted but feels superior as he has a Beijing hukou (per-

manent residence). He watches his lodgers pursuing their dreams and fighting to get their own Beijing hukou. Different people rent his houses. Some are losers of life while some are successful.

Geng Tian, one of Qiangge's former tenants who became an assistant for a boss of a real estate company appears in the courtyard one day, declaring that his company has bought the land and will demolish Qiangge's houses. Bai He, a young woman, Qiangge's former lodger and lover, becomes a popular star but is in danger of becoming a sacrifice for the real estate com-



pany. The drama develops around these three main characters.

The writer of the play, Wang Jian, is a soldier from Shanghai, living in Beijing for about 20 years. "Although I've lived in Beijing for around 20 years, I still feel like an outsider. I can empathize with

those people from other places, working and living in Beijing." Wang said. "The play is more than just a story. It shows us young people's dreams in Beijing and encourages us to ask ourselves what are the right ways to achieve our goals. In the play, every person tries their best to realize their dream. They hurt others; tell lies; and even betray themselves. Some of them finally succeed; they get permanent residence in Beijing; however, they still feel unstable because they lose their conscience and morals."



Photos provided by Beijing People's Art Theater



tries their best to realize their dream. They hurt others; tell lies; and even betray themselves. Some of them finally succeed; they get permanent residence in Beijing; however, they still feel unstable because they lose their conscience and morals."

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Promotion ends on 31st October, 2006

By Huang Daohen

Bar, disco, rock and roll... If you measure a city's nightlife by the number of chances for debauchery it offers, then Beijing has never held a candle to such Babylons as Shanghai and Hong Kong. If, instead, you take it by its diversity, the capital rivals any major city in Asia. Or maybe it's the other way round. But Beijing has plenty to offer someone who is looking for a happy hour cocktail or full night of dancing.

Nightlife in Beijing

No+Ch= Nordic+China

- all-star lineups from two of the most recognizable Nordic labels, Jazzland and Smalltown Supersound;

- more than 13 renowned musicians presenting cutting-edge music and visual art;

- cordially supported by emerging local young musicians and artists.

Encompassing a variety of musical genres and featuring many well-known Nordic and Chinese musicians and DJs, the first No+Ch Music Festival will provide Beijing with the latest Nordic music, art and culture scene, as well as a social environment for a diverse and cosmopolitan crowd.

The festival, with a wide range of artists and styles, promises to be one of the most exciting musical and cultural events of the year. 'Notch' means providing 'top notch' new music to the Chinese audience. The 'T' in 'notch' can be displayed as '+' - a 'plus', creating a synergy of combined musical talents from the Nordic States and China.

The festival will take place in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou during National Holiday Week. In Beijing, there will be a showcase of 30 artists and performers, both international and local, over October 4, 5 and 6, from 8pm to 3am. Each of the three nights will see a progressive approach to music programming, with modern, traditional and electronic jazz.

No+Ch 06 line-up

Nordic:

Jazzland All Stars

Led by Bugge Wesseltoft, boss of Jazzland Records, Jazzland All Stars consists of the most popular musicians from the label. They started this tour in 2005, 10th anniversary of the label. Before coming to China, they completed concerts in Paris, London and the

No+Ch 2006, Beijing



The first Scandinavian Music Festival

Photo by Royal Norwegian Embassy

Rockefeller Center in Oslo, playing to full houses everywhere. The China tour includes Bugge Wesseltoft, guitarist Eivind Aarset, drummer Audun Kleive and electronic duo Mongolian Jet Set.

Smalltown Supersound

Smalltown Supersound is a portrait of the scene and an important pioneer behind the curtain. Over more than 10 years, it has established itself internationally as a cult label for electronic, free jazz and noise. Jaga

Jazzist, Lasse Marhaug, Martin Horntvedt, and Jazzkammer are all names associated with it.

Mongolian Jet Set

Led by DJ Strangefruit, aided by Peidar Skar (studio) and Kunt Sevik (live), 'jet set' is a term used to describe an international group who organize and participate in social activities all around the world via jet airplanes. It is a collective of the stellar vault of Future Jazz presenting imaginary free flow and exotic music.

China:

Dead J – key player of a new generation of electronic music

IGO – the first electroclash and new wave group in China

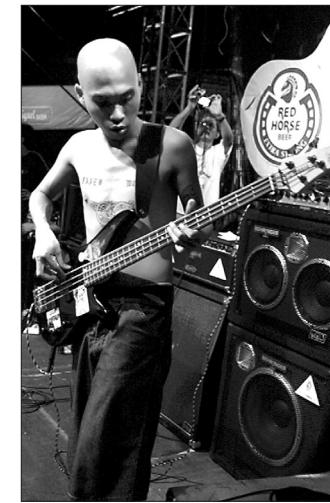
Song Tao – new generation visual artist

Where: 6, Fangyuan Xilu, Lido Park South, Chaoyang

Open: from 8pm to 3am, October 4, 5, 6

Price: 100 yuan for three nights.

Tel: 6435 6762

WBOB gets to start
Photo by Yugong Yishan

Clubs

By Wei Ying/Huang Daohen

1. The Pinker Tones DJ Crew at Club Fusion

Since their debut album in 2004, the duo's intoxicating mix of electro, pop, dance and lounge music has excited and baffled critics in equal measure. The quickly establishing Pinker Tones as one of Spain's most exciting musical exports. It's the first time the crew has come to China.

Where: Top Club Beijing, 4 F, Tongli Studio, Sanlitun backstreet, Chaoyang

Open: 10pm-4am, Friday, Oct 6
Price: 50 yuan per person
Tel: 6413 1019

2. Lexicon Avenue@Club Fusion

Oct 7 is the last night of the National Holidays and a time to party. Scott Bradford and Mark Armstrong from Lexicon Avenue (UK) will be on the decks at Club Fusion that night.

The duo have been keeping England's clubbers going for more than a decade.

Time: 8pm-2am, Sat. Oct 7
Address: 8 Gongti Stadium North Road, Chaoyang

3. John 00 Fleming@club fusion

John 00 Fleming has 20 years of experience as a DJ and specializes in hard-edged progressive trance. One of his tunes ranked seventh in the Best Trance Anthems Ever (virgin records) in 1999.

Time: 8pm-2am, Oct 13
Address: 8 Gongti Stadium North Road, Chaoyang 9

4. Helsinki Ghetto Bass Atrol@Cargo Club

Helsinki Ghetto Bass Patrol comes to Cargo with a North American hip hop style.

Time: 8pm-2am, Oct 13
Address: 6 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang 5. Esquire dating cosmo

It's not the first time that *Cosmopolitan* and *Esquire* magazines have come up with dating-themed events. Last year, the magazine published photos and biogs of 100 single men in the magazine.

On October 20th, the magazine and www.clubzone.cn will organize a party for the most eligible bachelors and bachelorettes in Beijing. A total of 500 men and 500 women will be picked for Beijing's biggest singles party. Only participants with an invitation from the magazine can join in the party. The magazine has said they will run a very strict policy for invitees. People who are married or in a relationship need not apply.

For more information, email trendsdate@hotmaill.com

Time: 9pm-4am, Oct 20

Address: TBC



WBOB gets melodic competition started

By Huang Daohen

Focusing exclusively on unsigned bands, all acts writing and performing their own material, the World Battle of the Bands (WBOB), to be held in Yugong Yishan Club from October 4, is a platform for musicians and the alternative music scene in China.

WBOB is the only international band contest to successfully operate in Asia Pacific and grow its presence year on year. This year also marks the first year for WBOB to embrace the thriving China music scene, and is the first international band competition to come to China.

In 2006, competitions will be held in Chinese mainland,



World Battle of the Bands 2006

Photo provided by Yugong Yishan

Taiwan, Singapore, the Philippines, Australia, Hong Kong, USA and New Zealand, where bands battle it out in a series of heats, semi-finals and regional finals. The regional winning band will compete in the international World Final, which will be held

at the end of the year.

on October 28 in Hong Kong.

Xie Tianxiao, lead singer and creative force behind the band Cold Blooded Animals, brought two songs from his most recent album to the event. Both songs feature the guzheng, together with a driving rock sound, and are just a taste of the diversity in China's music scene.

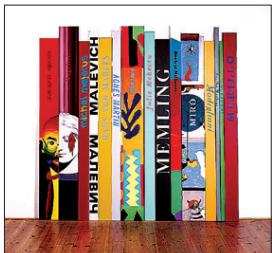
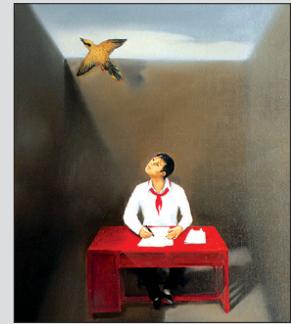
At this point, nearly 50 bands have registered to take part in this year's competition. With 10 more days to go, this is clearly just the tip of the iceberg.

Where: Yugong Yishan Club, 1A, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang

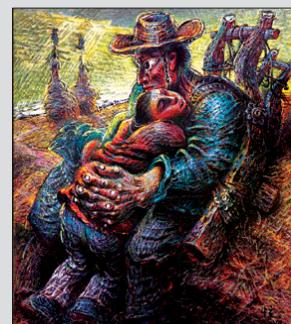
When: from 9:30pm to midnight, October 4-7

Price: 30 yuan per person

Tel: 6415 0687

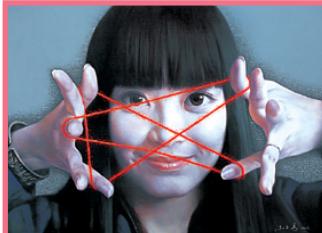
Art Books, *Espacio Minmou*Art Museum No., *Arario Beijing*Happy Together, *Shine Art Space Shanghai*

Zhang Fazhi's orioles oil on Canvas

Diving, *PYO Gallery*Luo Zhongli series, *Anna Ning Fine Art*Fable series, *Asia Art Center*Air of the city, *AMT Art Gallery*

Art Beijing 2006

a feast in Beijing's art season

Memories series, *Schoeni Art Gallery*

By Qiu Jiaoning
Art Beijing 2006, a large-scale contemporary art exposition will be held in the National Agricultural Exhibition Center in Beijing from October 6 to 10.

The participants include

more than 100 famous galleries from 12 countries and regions in Asia, Europe and America. In particular, the participating galleries from Asia include and represent the pick of this area, according to Yvonne Ye from Art Beijing's Publicity Department.

Dong Mengyang, the art executive director of Art Beijing said, "We designed the plan and the whole Art Beijing 2006 will take the proportion 5:3:2. That means the Chinese galleries will account for 50 percent, with the Asian and European galleries taking 30 percent and 20 percent of the exhibition space respectively."

Original works by numerous well-known Chinese and foreign contemporary artists, such as Andy Warhol, Damien Hirst, Arman, Zhu Dequn, Zhao Wuji, Fang Lijun, Yue Minjun, Zhou Chunya, Zeng Fanzhi and Yang Shaobin will appear in the exposition, providing a rare chance for collectors and art lovers. On the evening of October 5, more than 1,000 important collectors from around the world are invited to a VIP Preview Reception and Opening Ceremony.

In October, Beijing will take Art Beijing 2006 as a kind of art hub. A complete set of peripheral exhibitions and all kinds of art activities will emerge one after another. For instance, Songzhuang Art Festival, the well-known contemporary artist

Fang Lijun's first solo exhibition in China as well as the Opening Exhibition of Today Art Museum, will become the eye-catching peripheral activities of Art Beijing 2006.

Art Unforbidden

During the exposition, Pi Li, famous contemporary art exhibition curator will organize a theme exhibition – Art Unforbidden. The theme exhibition is designed to introduce and promote the most active art trends today.

Art Unforbidden stresses only the last two years. It has invited 19 internationally famous artists to exhibit, including Chen Wenbo, Hong Donglu, Lin Minghong, Qiu Anxiong, Yang Fudong, Zheng Guogu, Cao Fei, Chen Xiaoyun, Chen Jieren, Han Jin, Hilaki Sawa, Kan Xuan, Aernout Mik, Jonathan Monk, Yang Jiechang, Weng Peijun, Wang Yin, Xia Xiaowan and Yang Qian.

The works stress the delicate and realism. The participating artists will show mainly video recordings, photographs and installation. There are also

some paintings.

Youth Art Zone – Beijing through the eyes of young artists

In the open square of the National Agricultural Exhibition Center, Art Beijing 2006 will organize Youth Art Zone, a cultural event for artists under 35 and an opportunity for them to display.

More than 20 young artists living in China, but coming from different countries and regions will present their feelings for Beijing through video, music and performances. Through this focused method, the young artists will display their state of mind and art when contemplating Beijing.

"Youth Art Zone is an eye-catching and completely new point of Art Beijing 2006," said Yvonne Ye.

Art Beijing 2006

Where: National Agricultural Exhibition Center, No 16, North 3rd Ring Road, Chaoyang

When: from October 6 to October 10

Tel: 6554 7002, 6554 7003

Zhang Dandan and Li Huahua series, *Cathay Gallery*
Photos provided by Executive Committee of Art Beijing 2006

China's emergence as a world superpower is now spilling over into the art world. The rapidly developing Chinese contemporary scene has already guaranteed its place in art history. There is more and more contact between Chinese contemporary art and the world. From museum exhibitions and international art shows to galleries and fine art publishers, Chinese contemporary artists have been gradually gaining recognition in the worldwide art market.



Liu Yujun's Unknown Lure

Photos provided by Sally Liu



Photograph work, Hong Hao

Chinese contemporary celebrates 10 years

By Qiu Jiaoning

Chinese Contemporary Gallery is celebrating 10 years of championing the Chinese avant-garde with a special exhibition in their Beijing gallery at Factory 798. Most of the works have been specially made for this anniversary exhibition and have never been seen before.

"The exhibition will feature Chen Quilin, Hong Hao, the Luo Brothers, Shen Fan, Shi Guorui, Wang Guangyi, Xue Song, Zhao Bo and others," said Katie Grube from Chinese Contemporary Gallery.

Hong Hao, renowned for his My Things photos featuring collections of thousands of objects, has created a special work – Chinese Contemporary 10 Years. This photograph is made of a multitude of objects from the life of the gallery over the past ten years: exhibition announcements, images of the artists at the openings of various public and private exhibitions, great press moments for the Chinese artists and passes to the art fairs that have helped to make their names.

Shen Fan will show three works typical of his minimalist style. His creations will be small neon tubes. The tubes will light up in sequence to create the work of art and then fade out to deconstruct the creation. The works will be red like the gallery's logo of three red squares.

Xue Song has created some of his famous collage works using Chinese Contemporary catalogues as his source of paper. Zhao Bo has painted one hundred small canvases. Each painting is a byte from the megachip that is China, capturing the richness of life.

Chinese Contemporary Gallery

Chinese Contemporary Gallery first opened in London in 1996 and was the first gallery in the West dedicated solely to art of the Chinese avant-garde made by artists living and working in China. With two galleries, one in London and one in Beijing, they show the whole range of artistic creation: photography, painting, performance, sculpture, installation and video.

Chinese Contemporary 10th Anniversary Exhibition

Where: Chinese Contemporary Beijing, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 11am-7pm, from September 30 to November 30

Admission: Free
Tel: 8456 2421

Large-scale landscape installation by artist Wang Jianwei

Preview exhibition for Chinese artists European tour

By Qiu Jiaoning

The Artist Village Gallery has gathered about 70 pieces from the latest art works from Songzhuang – a hot bed of Chinese contemporary art – to tour Europe this November. A preview of the works for the tour will be held from October 5 to 31 in the Gallery.

"The selected works have different styles and themes, but all reflect the issues in China today, and their high quality makes them attractive to collectors," said Sally Liu from

the Artist Village Gallery.

The selected artists include Sun Guanghua (famous for his Coffee Mate and Red Gossip Series), Liu Yaxian (Water Series), Yan Yu (Smoker Series), Dalong (anti-traditional painting and installation), Liu Yi (Bank of China Series), Liu Yujun (Ambiguous Lure), Zhang Xuehai (Face Series), Abiao (Pottery Series) and Piao Guangxie (Faded Lotus Series). Some of them are established artists from the early Yuanmingyuan Artist Village. Some have

lived in Songzhuang for 10 years, while some are emerging artists.

Songzhuang – Living and working artistically

Songzhuang is one of the largest art communities in the world. Located in Songzhuang Town in the east suburbs of Beijing, about 500 artists live there. It is well known as a base of Chinese contemporary art, and an artists' community offering a peaceful and poetic ambience.

"This self-formed artists' group has been trying to build

an image of Chinese contemporary art in the world and to explain its own understanding of reality and life in unique art languages," said Sally Liu.

Preview Exhibition of the European Tour

Where: Artist Village Gallery, No 1 North of Renzhuang, Songzhuang, Tongzhou

When: Appointment only, from October 5 to October 31
Admission: 15 yuan
Tel: 6959 8343
13901244283

First artist for new Today Art Museum

A Fang Lijun oil painting

tal, not-for-profit art museum on October 7. The new building located in the CBD, boasts advanced facilities and focuses on China's art development with a modern art vision, which represents a step towards connecting Today Art Museum with the world.

Fang Lijun's solo exhibition will be his largest to date. An oil painting 35 meters in length, which took the artist over three years to complete, is going to be shown to the

public for the first time. The exhibition will feature over 100 works. Among them are many newly completed works, including oil paintings, prints and statues. All represent the achievement of Fang Lijun's latest exploration in art.

Fang's immense success is a classical case within Chinese modern art in the past decade since the rise of modern artistic thought in China. Fang boasts one of the most impressive artist resumes, as well

as participating in major international exhibitions like the Venice Biennale.

The museum space, designed by architect Wang Hui, and large-scale landscape installation by artist Wang Jianwei made especially for Today Art Museum, will

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By He Jianwei

The vehicles of cultural communication are varied in the realm of contemporary art, from the video to the photo, from acrylics to the Plexiglas. Here are our top recommendations for where to see the best foreign artists' work this October.

Where east meets west

– foreign artists' exhibitions in Beijing



Fantastic World by Lorenzo Scotto di Luzio

Vesuvius – video works of Neapolitan artists

An intensive full immersion into Neapolitan video art through the video works of artists called Vesuvius is being held in offiCina Factory 798 – an Italian cultural exchange center and exhibiting space in the 798 district – from September 30 to October 8.

This exhibition project has Giotto Del Vecchio as curator, and is promoted by Antonella Basilico, Naples Provincial Government Councilor for Cultural Heritage, in cooperation with Naples Provincial Government Administration for Communitarian Politics.

"I think it's no longer possible to refer to 'the art of Naples' as a characterized and characterizing culture," explains Giotto Del Vecchio, curator of the exhibition and art director of the Morra Greco Foundation.

"To be 'Neapolitan' means wishing to be a part of the world and to better understand how important it is to relate to others and exchange ideas. I believe this is important to understand the city of Naples, its inhabitants and its artists. It has always been 'international,' its tolerance and its openness derived from being more than one culture at the same time; a seaside city and a harbor," said Vecchio.

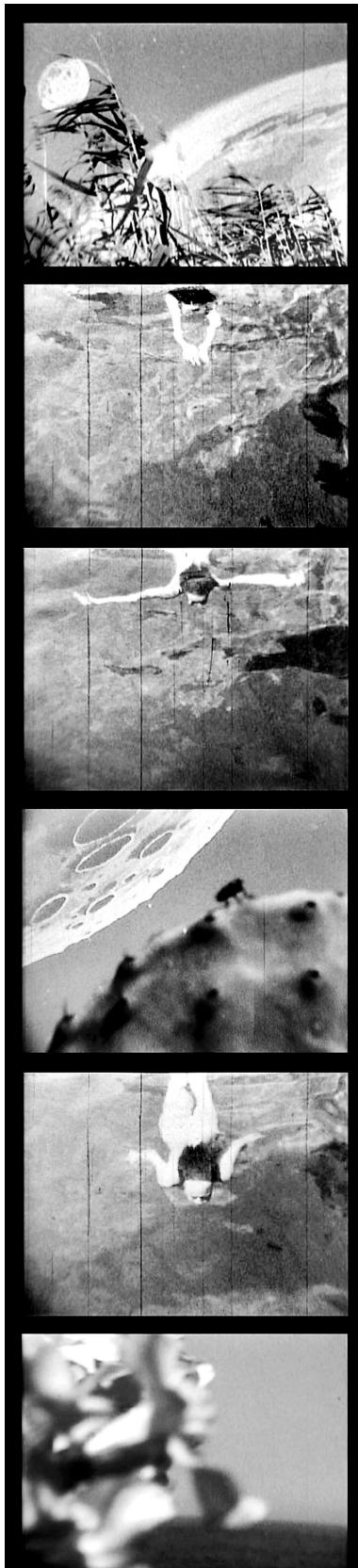
"The exhibition Vesuvius is a meaningful step along a path started long time ago by Naples Province and the Council for Cultural Heritage – that I represent – to internationalize the cultural debate within our city," said Antonella Basilico, "Our policy starts from the wish to spread and add value to Neapolitan culture by presenting it outside its national boundaries through a prestigious image. In so doing, we rely on our artists' creativity and value. The universal language of video art therefore becomes a peculiar instrument of dialogue and sharing."

The structure of the exhibition, installed in 798, goes beyond the local character and, thanks to its strong narrative intention and aesthetic dimension, outlines an articulate and exhaustive picture of making art by using video and the video-camera.

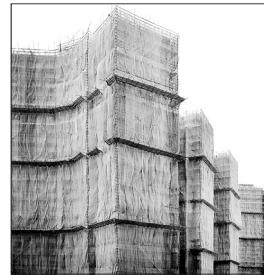
Every video work will be set up inside an independent space in order to let the audience see and hear all artworks in full autonomy.



Piero Golia: The Vanishing

U.S.O. (Underwater Submerged Object)
by Luca Mattei
Photos by offiCina factory 798

Architecture Density – Michael Wolf's Works



Density 1



Density 2

Photos by Imagine Gallery

German photographer Michael Wolf will have a photography exhibition, Architecture of Density, in 798 Photo Gallery from October 7 to 29. Wolf has lived and worked in Hong Kong for 10 years. Stimulated by the region's complex urban dynamics, he takes dizzying photographs of its architecture.

In Architecture of Density, Wolf investigates Hong Kong, the majority of whose citizens live in flats in high-rise buildings, and the vibrant city blocks, finding a mesmerizing abstraction in the buildings' facades and in each building a singular character, despite its functional purpose and massive form.

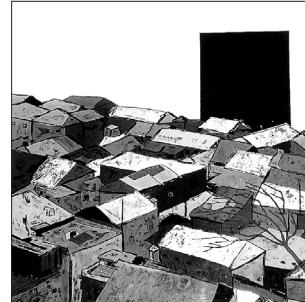
Some of the structures in the series are photographed without reference to the context of sky or ground, and many buildings are seen in a state of repair or construction: their walls covered with a grid of scaffolding or the soft colored curtains that protect the streets below

from falling debris. From a distance, such elements become a part of the photograph's intricate design.

Upon closer inspection of each photograph, the anonymous public face of the city is full of rewarding detail – suddenly public space is private space, and large swatches of color give way to smaller pieces of people's lives. The trappings of the people are still visible here: their days inform the detail of these buildings. Bits of laundry and hanging plants pepper the tiny rectangles of windows – the only irregularities in this orderly design.

Wolf was born in Munich, Germany in 1954. He studied first at the North Toronto Collegiate Institute in Canada, then UC Berkeley and, in the mid 1970s, with Otto Steinert at the University of Essen, in Germany. Published monographs include *Sitting in China* (2002) and *China im Wandel* (China in Transition) (2001).

Transparency – painting on Plexiglas



Hutong



Blue Hotel

Photos by 798 Photo Gallery

French artist Fortunee Noel will have her exhibition Transparency-Painting on Plexiglas at Imagine Gallery from October 20 to December 20.

Directly evoked by the Plexiglas, depicted by urban landscape compositions—abstract or figurative—transparency and its impacts on things and people is the core of Fortunee Noel's work.

The moving from ancestral hutong to skyscrapers inspired by modern firms, the reversal of secular horizon-

tality to futuristic verticality, the transformations of symbols which govern time and space; the artist tries to incorporate all these aspects into her works made in Beijing.

The results obtained beneath the surface of these works, relate to a sensitivity developed through contact with new technologies. Color, captured by transparency but resolutely alive, enlightens one's sight and beyond political stakes abides by ultimate privilege of creating the beautiful.

By He Jianwei

To understand what is happening in today's modern world, the best way is to look back to history. To promote such an understanding, an exhibition of great historic relics is underway in Beijing.

The ancient gives way to the modern – great civilizations on show

Greece:

Greek culture reached a high point of development in the 5th century BC, which was marked by the successful repulsion of the Persian invasion early in the century, the establishment of democracy and the flourishing of science, philosophy, literature, art and historical writing in Athens.

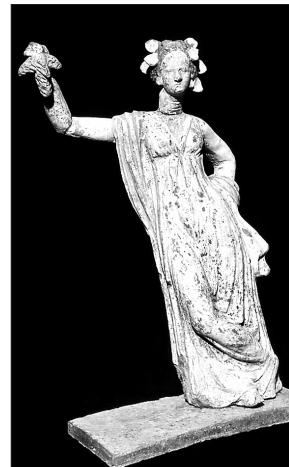
1. Comedy Mask



This mask is from a Dionysus ritual. Dionysus was the god of wine, agriculture, and fertility of nature, and was also the patron god of the Greek stage. Dionysus also represents other aspects of religions, such as those practiced

at Eleusis: ecstasy, personal delivery from the daily world through physical or spiritual intoxication, and initiation into secret rites.

2. Colored Figure Ceramics

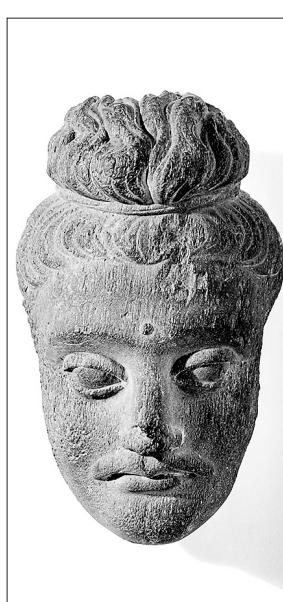


This antique has extremely fine quality art and rich colors. It was in a funerary object buried in a grave in the third century BC. In 1996 people discovered the grave in Taranto. Anthropologists have confirmed it to be that of a young girl.

India:

India has dominated the world stage through most of human history, as the home of mighty empires, as a powerful trading nation, and as a wellspring of culture and civilization.

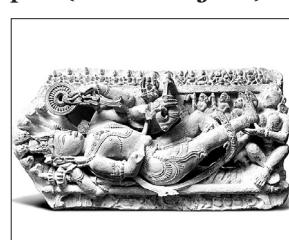
1. Face of the Buddha



This head of the Buddha has the usual ushnisha (cranial bump indicating wisdom)

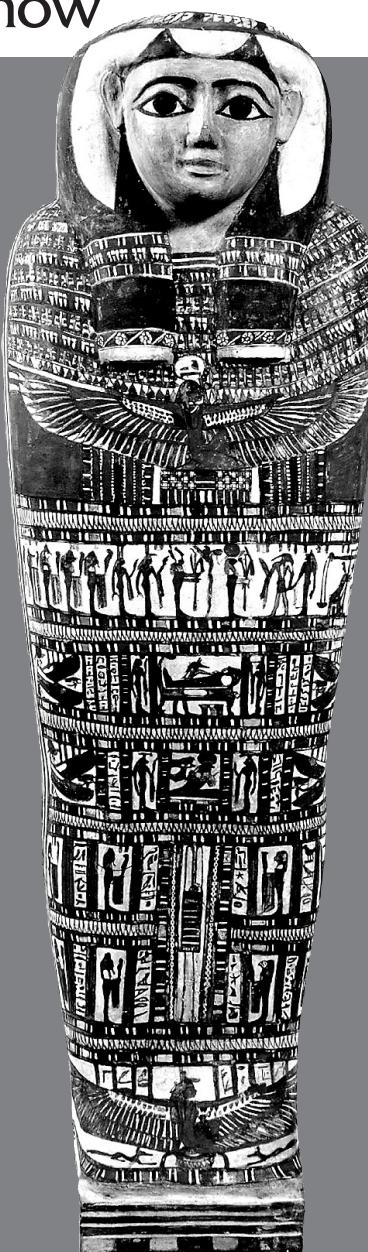
and urna (tuft of hair between the eyebrows), but it also has a mustache, a distinctive trait found in Greco-Roman depictions of the Buddha from the Gandhara region.

2. The God Vishnu Asleep on the Endless Serpent (Anantashayana)



Vishnu—one of the primary deities of the Hindu pantheon—dreams on the undefined ocean of existence, supported by the great snake whose name is Ananta ('Endless' or 'Infinite'). From Vishnu's navel grows a lotus, which opens to reveal the multi-headed god Brahma, who in turn creates the world-as-we-know-it. That world proceeds through its preordained stages until Vishnu's dream ends, only to begin again in his next dream, continuing forever in endless cycles.

The Exhibition of Great Civilizations is being held at the Beijing World Art Museum in The China Millennium Monument on September 28. The works cover six great civilizations: the Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Indian, Mesopotamian and Mesoamerican.



Photos by
China Millennium Monument

Egypt:

Ancient Egypt - a land of mysteries. No other civilization has so captured the imagination of scholars and lay people alike. Mystery surrounds its origins, its religion and its monumental architecture: colossal temples, pyramids and the enormous Sphinx.

1. Sphinx of Pharaoh Amasis



Amasis, who was probably the 5th ruler of Egypt during the 26th Dynasty, has been called the last great Egyptian Pharaoh.

2. The Coffin Cover of Druidess Khonsudisu

Khonsudisu lived in Tebe in 18th dynasty (1540-1295BC). The cover of the coffin is 174cm with colored drawings and patterns.

Mesopotamia:

The drainage basins of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in what is today southeastern Turkey, eastern Syria, Iraq, and by extension southwestern Iran have long been recognized as the cradle of civilization, and the rivers' southern floodplain has more recently been dubbed the heartland of cities.

1. Statuette of a Standing Male

Statues such as this were popular in the early Dynastic Period and are commonly referred to by archaeologists and art historians as worshipers, votive figures or ex votos. They are usually found in temples. The statuette described here, for example, is from a temple dedicated to Nintu, a mother goddess, at Khafajah (Tutub). The realism of the head marks this standing male as one of the finest of such statues recovered from excavations in the lower Diyala region.



2. Markhor-goat Protome

The markhor goat (*capra falconeri*) derives its name from Persian words *mar* (snake) + *khor* (eating), and is noted for its tightly curled, corkscrew-shaped horns, straight or flaring. The markhor goat's habitat has historically extended from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikstan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and northern India (Kashmir), but is more restricted today.

Rome:

The burning of Corinth in 146 BC marked the Roman conquest of Greece, which was then reduced to a province of the Roman Empire. From this time on, Latin was the language of the western half of the Roman Empire, Greek that of the eastern half.

1. Statue of the Roman Emperor Trajan

Trajan was considered an exceptional leader having the personal qualities of simplicity and modesty. He was a natural leader and a favorite with the army and the senatorial classes. His economical administration and humanitarian social policies made him popular.

2. Statue of Venus

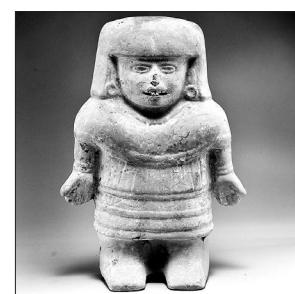
Like the Greek goddess Aphrodite whose mythology she inherited, the Roman goddess Venus assumed the divine responsibility for love, beauty, and sexuality, not to mention marriage, procreation, and domestic bliss.

Mesoamerica:

The term Mesoamerica refers to a geographical area embracing the modern nations of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Belize. Mesoamerica was home to one of the most sophisticated pre-Columbian civilizations of the Americas.

1. Polychrome Bowl With Hole At The Center

The hole at the center was made as part of a ritual, possibly to release the 'spirit' of the bowl, a form of ritual killing of the bowl. This practice is known for other groups in the Americas.



2. Standing Figure

This figure is in a style known as Nopiloa-Mayoid (550-900 AD). Nopiloa ceramics were made in southern Veracruz (now in the east of Mexico). The clay and paints used in the two styles are very similar.



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Music

The 9th Beijing Music Festival Opening

Where: Poly Theater
When: 7:30pm, Oct 2

The Year of Russia & 100th anniversary of Shostakovich – The Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District

Where: Poly Theater
When: 7:30pm, Oct 3

Maurizio Pollini Piano Recital

Where: Poly Theatre
When: 7:30pm, Oct 4

The Year of Russia – A Night of Russia Music

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall
When: 7:30pm, Oct 6

The Year of Italy & 250th anniversary of Mozart

Where: Poly Theatre
When: 7:30pm, Oct 8-9

The Year of Russia & 100th anniversary of Shostakovich – Shostakovich Songs Recital

Where: Beijing Concert Hall
When: 7:30pm, Oct 10

The Red Classics Highlights of Symphonic Peking Opera



Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall
When: 7:30pm, Oct 11

A Concert of Chinese Contemporary Chamber Music

Where: Beijing Concert Hall
When: 7:30pm, Oct 12

The Year of Russia & 100th anniversary of Shostakovich – Dmitri Shostakovich: Nose (Opera in three acts)

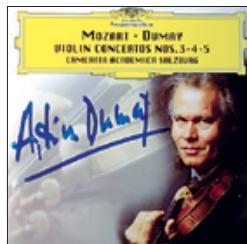
Where: Poly Theatre
When: 7:30pm, Oct 13

250th anniversary of the birth of Mozart – Mozart on the keyboards

Where: Poly Theatre
When: 7:30pm, Oct 14

Augustin Dumay and China Philharmonic Orchestra Concert

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall
When: 7:30pm, Oct 22



Movie

Jasmine Women (Molihua kai)



Director: Hou Yong
Produced: 2003, 130 minutes
Where: Cherry Lane, Kent Center, south to Gaolan Building, Chaoyang District
When: 8pm, Oct 6-7

In the Land of the Deaf

Director: Nicolas Philibert
Country: France
Where: Box Café, Building No. 5, Xiwangzhuang, Shuangqinglu Road, Haidian
When: 7:30pm, Oct 10
Tel: 62791280

The Most Beautiful Week in My Life



Director: Min Gyu-Dong
Running time: 132 minutes
Where: Korean Culture Courtyard, 501, Qiche Building, No.38 Xiaoyunlu Road, Chaoyang
When: 6pm, Oct 13

The View in Beijing Alleyway

Director: Zhang Xiaobing
Running time: 108 minutes
Where: Box Café, Building No. 5, Xiwangzhuang, Shuangqinglu Road, Haidian
When: 7:30pm, Oct 17
Tel: 62791280

By the Sea

Director: Hu Jie
Running time: 60 minutes
Where: Box Café, Building No. 5, Xiwangzhuang, Shuangqinglu Road, Haidian
When: 7:30pm, Oct 24
Tel: 62791280

Bars

Lexicon Avenue@Club Fuse

Where: 8 Gongti Stadium North Road, Chaoyang
When: 8pm-2am, Oct 7

John 'oo' Fleming@club Fuse

When: 8pm-2am, Oct 13

Helsinki Ghetto Bass

Atrol@Cargo Club
When: 6 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang



Four Happiness by Beijing Modern Dancing Company

Dance

On the Verge – Theater

Who: Mind The Gap (UK) Dance Company
Where: South Gate Space, 798 Factories
When: 8:30pm, Oct 11

Gold – New media / Performance

Who: Alexandra Bachzetsis (Switzerland) Dance Company
Where: South Gate Space, 798 Factories
When: 8pm, Oct 14

Part 1 Silent Steps and Part 2 Kridt

Who: Danish Dance Theater
Where: Nine Theater, Chaoyang Cultural Center
When: 7:30pm, Oct 12

Sal Mirabile

Who: Virpi Pahkinen (Swedish) Dancing Company
(Performing a one evening program with the Tanzatelier Wien workshop)

Where: Nine Theater, Chaoyang Cultural Center
When: 7:30pm, Oct 13

Spazio Divertimento

Who: Tanzatelier Wien / Sebastian Prantl / Solo Duo (Austria) Dancing Group
(Performing a one evening program with Virpi Machine workshop)

Where: Nine Theater, Chaoyang Cultural Center
When: 7:30pm, Oct 13
www.tanzatelierwien.at

Maria Vespers

Who: Les Ballets C de la B/Christine De Smedt (Belgium) Dancing Company
Performing in one evening program with Christine De Smedt workshop
Where: South Gate Space, 798 Factories
When: 7:30pm, Oct 13
www.lesballetscdebla.be

When: 8pm-2am, Oct 13

Esquire dating cosmo

Where: TBC
When: 9pm-4am, Oct 20

No+Ch= Nordic+China

Where: 6, Fangyuan Xilu, Lido Park South, Chaoyang
Open: 8pm-3am, Oct 4, 5, 6
Tel: 6435 6762

Exhibition

Wonderland



Where: Star Gallery, No. 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: 11am-6pm, Sept 30-Oct 22
Admission: Free
Tel: 8456 0591

Luan Xiaojie's contemporary oil painting exhibition

Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, 1-1E Huawei Li (North of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang
When: 9:30am-6pm, Oct 1-19
Admission: Free

Wei Kuizhong solo exhibition

Where: Yimeicang Gallery, No. 837 Kangyingcun, Sunhexiang, Jingshun Lu, Chaoyang
When: 9am-7pm, Oct 1-31
Admission: Free
Tel: 8456 1884

Specimen – Gao Yu's solo exhibition



Where: E8 Space, No. 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: 11am-6pm, Oct 7-22
Admission: Free
Tel: 8456 0591

Out of Order – group show

Where: F2 Gallery, No. 319 Caochangdi, Chaoyang
When: 10am-6pm, from Oct 7-27
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 8831

Water ink painting exhibition



Where: New Art Center, No. 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng
When: 9:30am-6pm, Oct 8-28
Admission: Free
Tel: 6528 9103

Related to the Past – A solo exhibition by Yang Liu

Where: Beijing Art Now Gallery, Beijing Workers' Stadium, opposite Gate 12, Chaoyang
When: 11am-7pm, Oct 9-Nov 2
Admission: Free